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FLOOR DEBATE

March 22, 2002 LB 898, 1039, 1085

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I rise in support of the motion to recommit to committee. I am going to vote for every impedance in this process that I can until the unlikely occurrence of looking at both sides of the equation becomes apparent, the necessity of that becomes apparent to everybody in this Chamber. According to what is on the second page of today's agenda, we have LB 1039 which is \$11.8 million, and after several days we were able to move about \$84,000 of that. And then LB 898, we took \$22 million away from the schools. So the results of all our labors this week has been to shorten the appropriations side of the equation by 1.2 percent. We can stand here and examine motives all the rest all we want, but it comes down to you have to go to both sides of the equation to get a result that is worthwhile, and this body has refused to do that and will continue to refuse to do that because right now it's the easy thing to do. But I believe that Senator Chambers has one of those rare occasions when he might be a little right. I think we are going to have a special session. I don't think that we are going to face our problems. And our problem again, and this I think is the sixth or seventh time that I've said this just this week, we are not undertaxed, we are overspent. Now we're going to adjourn here in a couple of hours, three or four hours, and I would assume that a good many of us are going home. Ask some of the people there if they feel they are not paying enough tax if they really want to volunteer for that. The people that I talked to in my district, and I'm going to go home and do more of that this weekend, believe that we have to cut the expenditures. We have the bleeding heart tell us about how can we do this? They weep and moan, my God, we're talking about 100 and some people losing their job in the university. We're talking about people who have already lost their jobs in some of the other state agencies. Our population is static. It's up one or two percent over the last ten years. But the increase in people employed by government is not static. You see whether they want more...people want more services. A lot of the people I talked to don't want any more services. We heard yesterday that one of the things they're thinking about is closing the regional centers and rely on community services.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.